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EXCALIBUR



**AVENGERS™
ASSEMBLE!**

A30™

**30 YEARS
1963-1993**

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKNEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS. THEY HAVE Banded TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...



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OGAHH!

KDAG DOM ID
ZE NIA!

AAAAA...

INA PO
PLEGI!
NEKODH!
INA PO
PLEGI!

SA'TNEEN
KA AMEE, O
INTOO NEE

KDAG DOM
ID LIR ROBBY!
YE KATH.

NIA,
KYLEN,
BET'S
TRO RATAN
TONEE.





THE WISEWOMAN SWORE SHE
HAD KILLED MY PARENTS--
A CRUEL LIE TO ROB A
CHILD OF HOPE

WHAT DID
SHE TELL THEM
OF ME ?

DO THEY
THINK I
AM DEAD?

PERHAPS IT
WOULD BE
BETTER IF
THEY THOUGHT
I AM DEAD ?

NO, I CAN
NOT LIVE A
LIE : I MUST
CONFRONT
THEM NOW.

GYNA BOLU
FREEDNA VE !
AS ZZ XIA
TAUGHT ME.

HE WHO
HESITATES...





YOU DID WELL, LODESTONE. WE WERE INSTRUCTED NOT TO ALLOW THE TARGET TO MAKE CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC.

AYE, BUT PETER'LL NO 'BE HAPPY IF YE'VE HARNED HIM.



CRASH!

SMASH!

I AM UNHAPPY, MERELY GETTING MY BEARINGS.



BARBARIAN! UNPROVOKED VIOLENCE IS ENTIRELY WITHOUT MERIT.

THEN WHY HAVE YOU ATTACKED ME?



CAUSE YER AN OUTLAW.

GAH! HE WARNED BOY, I DO NOT PLAY AT FIGHTING.



YE'LL NO STOP ME WI' A POUGH O' FISHIN RODS!



NOT FISHING RODS.



MEANWHILE, SOME SEVENTY-FIVE FEET BENEATH THE DECELT KLING OF SAINT OSWALD'S CHURCH--

--CLOUDNINE, HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE MOST-SECRET DIVISION OF THE BRITISH SECRET SERVICE-- THE R.C.K.

I BELIEVE WE ARE ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLE SO I DO NOT PROPOSE TO IMPRISON YOU.

HOWEVER, SINCE THE SECURITY OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT IS PARAMOUNT--

...YOU HAVE EACH BEEN ALLOCATED A GUIDE WHO POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO NEUTRALIZE YOUR MUTANT POWERS.

SYNTHON HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO NIGHTCRAWLER.

SPONGE TO CARRIBE AND STAFFIE TO SHADOWCAT.

GUIDE, GUARD, DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU DRESS IT UP-- WE'RE STILL YOUR PRISONERS.

I AM AWARE OF YOUR HEROIC REPUTATION AS CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE, BUT UNDER BRITISH LAW YOU ARE CRIMINALS.

AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT, I CANNOT IGNORE THAT FACT...

...NOR CAN I CONDONE YOUR UNAUTHORIZED INFILTRATION OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT.

WE CAME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF OUR FRIEND, ALISTAIRE STUART.

YEAH! WHERE IS ALISTAIRE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM?

I WAS PRE-PARING TO TAKE YOU TO HIM. HE IS IN THE VERY NEXT ROOM.





INFANTS, BABIES, YOUNGSTERS, KIDS. YOU KNOW, THEY GROW INTO ADULTS.

AW, C'MON, KITTY. YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SMALL-ER ONCE.

NO. I EMERGED FROM THE SQUEEZE AS I AM.

KITTY, ARE YOU STILL A CHILDREN?

CHILD--
NO! BUT I'M STILL GROWING.

HAH! I HAD WONDERED WHY YOU ARE SO SMALL AND PLINY.

DESPITE CLOUD NINE'S EXTENSIVE SCIENTIFIC RESOURCES, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN THE CAUSE OF THIS GENETIC DESTABILIZATION.

THERE IS NO COMMON DENOMINATOR.

YOU SUSPECT AN ENEMY?

EVERY POSSIBILITY MUST BE CONSIDERED.

I WILL NOT FAIL THESE CHILDREN. THEY BELIEVED IN ME-- IN MY DREAM.

NIGHTCRAWLER, I REALIZE WE HAVE GOTTEN OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT, BUT--

YOU NEED HELP!

ALL WE CAN GET, AND COOPERATION MAY BE IN YOUR OWN BEST INTEREST. AS PARCH-HUMANS, YOU ARE ALL POTENTIAL VICTIMS.

IF YOU TRULY UNDERSTOOD OUR MOTIVES, YOU WOULD KNOW WE ARE BOUND TO HELP IN ANY WAY WE CAN.

SO SPARE US FURTHER POLITICAL POSTURING AND LET US GET TO WORK.

LIGHT YEARS
AWAY...

SHRIEK!

THIS
CANNOT
BE.

I AM
BENEFITED
FROM RACHEL
SUMMERS.

WITHOUT
MY SUSTENANCE
SHE WILL
PERISH.

NO, SHE IS
SAFE. WE HANG
IN TIMELESS
LIMBO.

HOW
CAME WE
HERE?

BY THY
OWN WILL.

WHO...?

THOU
SOUGHT
OBLIVION.

DEATH!

I AM AS
EACH WISHES
ME TO BE.

HAVE YOU
COME FOR
RACHEL?

WHERE SHE'S
YOU MUST
FOLLOW.

THEN
YOU WANT
ME?

BUT I AM THE PHOENIX--
A CONDUIT OF THE COSMIC
LIFE-FORCE--IF I SUCCEED
TO YOU, THE UNIVERSE WILL
BE YOURS.

IS THAT
WHAT YOU
HOPE TO
GAIN?

I AM IN
TORMENT.

GROWTH
IS PAIN.

WITHOUT
DESIRE OR
FAVOR, I AM
TRANSITION.

I WILL RESIST
YOU, THOUGH I HAVE
FALLEN LOW, I CANNOT
ALLOW THE UNIVERSE
TO PERISH.

IN THE COSMIC
CYCLE, I AM LIFE'S
CHAMPION.

YET YOU
SEEK
OBLIVION.

I AM
BEYOND RE-
DEMPTION.

I FORSOOK GOODHOOD TO
BECOME A PARASITE, AND
I CAN NEVER GO BACK.

THE UNIVERSE HAS
PAID A HEAVY PRICE
THAT I MIGHT TASTE
HUMANITY.



LIFE
IS
CHOICE.

IN LIVING, I
STEAL LIFE FROM
THE FUTURE OF THE
UNIVERSE. IF I
SURRENDER TO YOU,
THE UNIVERSE DIES.
WHAT CHOICE IS
THERE IN THAT?



YOU ARE LIKE
A MONKEY WHOSE
HAND IS STUCK IN
A COOKIE JAR.
SCREAMING THAT
IT IS TRAPPED BY
A HANDFUL OF
COOKIES.



YOU ARE SAYING
THAT TO BE FREE,
I MUST RELEASE
THAT WHICH I
CONVET.

CAN IT
REALLY
BE THAT
EASY?



NO! IT IS
REALLY THAT
DIFFICULT.





THE FUN'S OVER, BOYS. WE HAVE WORK TO DO. AND I'M SURE YOU HAVE, TOO.

THANKS FOR THE COSTUME, SILKWORK.

YES, PETER.



A MUTANT TAILOR YOU TRULY HAVE A DIVERSE ARMY OF ABILITY HERE.

THAT VERY DIVERSITY PREVENTS US FROM IDENTIFYING THE CAUSE OF THE DESTABILIZATION.

EACH MUTANT HAS AN INDIVIDUAL AND UNIQUE VARIATION OF A HOMO SAPIEN'S BASIC GENETIC PATTERN. THERE IS NO STANDARD FORM.

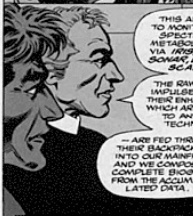
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN, NIGHT-CRAWLER.

HOW SO?



CONVERGENT ANALYSIS! BY COMPARING EVERY PARA-HUMAN TO DISCOVER COMMON FEATURES AND THEREBY DETERMINE WHAT IS NORMAL.

THIS CHAMBER GENERATES INTERACTIVE HOLOGRAPHIC SCENARIOS TO EXERCISE A MUTANT'S POWER TO ITS FULLEST EXTENT.



THIS ALLOWS US TO MONITOR A TOTAL SPECTRUM OF METABOLIC ACTIVITY VIA IRIS, SCOPE, SONAR, LEIS AND SCAN.

THE RAW NERVOUS IMPULSES FROM THEIR ENHANCED SENSES-- WHICH ARE FAR SUPERIOR TO ANY CURRENT TECHNOLOGY--

-- ARE FED THROUGH THEIR BACKPACKS INTO OUR MAINFRAME AND WE COMPOSE A COMPLETE BIOGRAM FROM THE ACQUAINTED DATA.

NONE OF OUR PARA-HUMANS IS AN ADULT. NEITHER IS SHADOWCAT, AND CERISE IS AN ALIEN.

AS A MATURE MUTANT, YOUR GENETIC PATTERN SHOULD BE SET. IT COULD SUPPLY US WITH A KEY TO DECODE THE MUTANT GENE.



SHADOWCAT AND CERISE CAN OBSERVE THE PROCESS FROM THE BOOTH TO GUARANTEE THERE IS NO FOUL PLAY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, KURT?

SOUNDS LIKE A SESSION IN THE DANGER ROOM.



I AM READY WHENEVER YOU ARE.

PURSUIT PROGRAM FOURTEEN COMMENCING IN THREE... TWO... ONE...







MEANWHILE, ON
BRITAIN'S CORNISH
COAST...

FIRST I
CAN'T FLY.
GRRR!

NOW MY
STRENGTH IS
FAILING.

PLEASE STOP
BRIAN! YOU'LL HURT
YOURSELF.

I'VE LIFTED
FAR MORE THAN
THIS BEFORE,
MEGGAN.

BUT
YOU'RE NOT
YOURSELF.

EXACTLY,
GANG!

I WANT
TO KNOW WHY,
GANG!

IT BEGAN
IN AFRICA—
JUST LIKE
THE LAST
TIME IN
AMERICA.

GRRRR!
BUT THEN I
RECOVERED MY
POWERS AS
SOON AS I RE-
TURNED TO
BRITAIN.

NOW,
GANG!
—EVEN WITH
MY COSTUME ON.

GRRRR!
I CAN'T
GRRRR!

BRIAN!







Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

First, allow me to congratulate you on all the supreme excellency with which this book is being handled. The stories are superb, and the art is without equal! I especially like Joe Madureira's pencils. You guys should have him do a special issue or two.

But, amid all the great things you guys are doing, you neglected one thing: Kitty Pryde.

Granted, she's in the spotlight often enough (i.e. issue #56), but the one thing that really sets me off is the "relationship" she and Alistair Stewart share. She really likes him, yet he won't cast her a second glance. Plus, it's always been that way! I think it's high time Kitty moved on. I'm not saying she should go get married or anything like that, but she should get out more, meet other people! Have her meet somebody in that electronics store where she gets all her software, or a concert of her favorite rock group, *Car's Laughing*. Do something.

Other than that, you all have an excellent book going here. And, I'm looking for pen pals who also love this title.

So, until Nightcrawler changes his name to Pepe Le Blue, Make Mine EXCALIBUR!

Chad Parsons
132 Broadway Apt. B-1
Hebron, OH 43025

You know, Chad, Kitty has been just a little busy lately — all those "spotlights" you referred to! But, her romantic future seems to be of great interest to many of our readers...guess you'll just have to keep reading!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

EXCALIBUR: The Sword is Drawn. And with artists such as Alan Davis, Mark Farmer, Joe Madureira and Joe Rubenstein, it's also being drawn absolutely brilliantly!

Ian Jackson
The Old Chapel, High Street
Harwell, Didcot
Oxon OX11 0EX
England

Thanks, Ian!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

EXCALIBUR #58 was kickin', man. The art is great, and by the way, I saw it was a clown that was telling the story.

Is Feron staying with Excalibur now? Is that his decision from now until Phoenix comes back from kingdom come? I hope so, and I also hope he quits being stubborn, because he looks like he would be a formidable warrior if his attitude wasn't in the way.

Gosh, how come Cerise uses the "lip message" only on Nightcrawler and not on everybody else?

Overall, issue #58 was fantastic! Until Klyun gets a face lift, Make Mine Marvel!

Bert
43 South meadows d
Appleton, WI 54915

Yup, looks like Feron is staying. Bent. That is, as long as our favorite band of British super-folks will put up with his stubbornness, and that attitude!

Dear Mr. Kavanagh,

I just picked up EXCALIBUR for the first time in several years and just about kicked myself for not having returned to this excellent book sooner. What made me grab it off the rack was the new artist. I had always liked Alan Davis's art, and I left the book when he stopped doing the art chores. Unfortunately, when he returned, I didn't. It took Joe Madureira's incredible penciling to bring me back. I certainly hope Joe will be continuing as the regular penciler for some time to come. His style is reminiscent of Art Adams while at the same time it is very much his own.

The only problem I have is with the crossover of the X-Men, a problem I have with a lot of Marvel's comics of late. There was no real reason for them to show up. The story forced them into action. Maybe I don't know enough of the background of this story but I felt their introduction was only used to increase sales. Although I will pick up subsequent issues regardless, I would rather leave Excalibur and the X-Men on their respective sides of the Pond.

When I first read EXCALIBUR it was for the characters. That's why I'll keep reading it. The introduction of Cerise in my absence is a welcome one. Unfortunately, I missed Klyun and I miss Phoenix. But the characters remain the central reason I am reading EXCALIBUR. Crossovers are unnecessary and only serve as a monetary sales booster. Keeping Alan Davis's excellent writing coupled with an excellent art team will inevitably create a strong fan base.

Todd M. Walker
Wormer Box 150 CC
Colorado Springs, CO 80946

Thanks for a thoughtful letter, Todd. We only wish you'd been around for the loud and insistent clanking (from all our readers who took the time to write) for an X-Men appearance! Oh well, what's that saying about some of the people all of the time...

Although Joe won't be our regular artist, you can catch his work in the upcoming DEADPOOL Limited Series. And we think you'll be very happy to hear that Alan is sticking with us not only as a wonderful writer, but also as an awesome artist!

Dear *Sword Strokes*,

Here are a few lines from a Dutch EXCALIBUR fan:

EXCALIBUR is the numero uno comic for me. I wouldn't miss it for anything in the world. The art and the story lines are great. The comic always has a lot of action and at the same time it leaves a lot of space for the emotional aspects of the team (i.e.

Nightcrawler blaming himself for the "death" of Rachel).

When you put everything together how can you not love this team? My favorite character is Shadowcat. I especially like the bonds she has formed with Lockheed and Widget. Speaking of Widget, what do you have planned with him? In issue #54 he said something about Sentinels and he called Kitty "Katherine." Does it have anything to do with Rachel's timeline? I'm very curious, but I suppose everything will be revealed sooner or later.

I, at least, will be waiting eagerly for the next issues and I am sure I'm not the only one. Keep up the great work.

Nicole Van Gils
Beethovenlaan 351
5011UJ Tilburg
Holland

All will be revealed about Widget in our very next story line, Nicole, beginning in EXCALIBUR #66 — "Days of Future Yet to Come."

NEXT ISSUE: The final fate of Rachel Summers — while the rest of Excalibur fights for their lives in Cloud Nine...

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